

THE VOICE OF
BLACK
WOMANHOOD

The New Spelman SPOTLIGHT

VOL. XXIV, NO. 1

Atlanta, Georgia

September 12, 1980

SPECIAL
EDITION:

Freshman Week

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The
Freshmen
are
HERE!



Why They Chose Spelman

By Cynthia Williams

The incoming freshmen class of 1984 at Spelman this year is just as versatile as any other before, and chose to attend Spelman for a variety of reasons.

As many high school students, freshman Lanita Gregory from Boston, Massachusetts desired primarily to leave her familiar home surroundings and explore a new state. Lanita expresses this common sentiment by saying, "I knew I wanted to get out of Massachusetts and go to school down South." Information concerning Spelman was scarce to Lanita at first, but soon after her initial interest, opinions started running high. Many of Lanita's friends and acquaintances voiced factual and hearsay information. With the assistance of her high school counselor and a Spelman recruiting representative, Lanita made the momentous decision to attend Spelman. Lanita further verbalized the situation by stating, "A lot of people started telling me about Spelman and my high school counselor really felt I should go, so eventually I just said Spelman's it."

Freshman Cordelia Daniel from Jacksonville, Florida didn't have one particular reason for choosing Spelman College, but a great many of them. Cordelia saw Spelman's location as an advantage as well as its size. Cordelia also talked with a Spelman representative and reasoned Spelman could be pretty

positive for her future. Cordelia summed up her feelings by saying, "There was one not particular reason, but I did want to go to a private school because of its size."

Many Spelmanites would argue the influence Morehouse College has exerted on their lives, but for freshman Eloise Matchett from Valdosta, Georgia a Morehouse man played a primary role in her decision to come to Spelman. Eloise felt Spelman College would ultimately be her choice for college, but further added, "My brother who went to Morehouse really pushed me a lot to attend Spelman and did influence me a great deal." Eloise had heard the name Spelman College spoken of in high regard and particularly the Psychology Department of which she possesses an interest.

Tanja Reed, also a freshman from Valdosta, Georgia was influenced mainly by her high school counselor. Tanja is hoping to work a great deal with Spelman's Sociology Department. Tanja feels she had an added advantage by having a friend who now attends Spelman.

Freshman Karla Sanford and Belvet Perry, both from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma had similar reasons for deciding upon Spelman College. Many of their peers attended Spelman and they both preferred a small private institution as opposed to a large state-operated

university. Karla and Belvet visited Spelman before making their final decision and felt the visit was impressive. Karla expressed her view by stating, "The people here were really nice and Spelman is one of the better colleges." Belvet ended the conversation by saying, "We both heard a lot of positive things about Spelman and I was very impressed after the visit."

While all of the above mentioned freshmen have come to Spelman from other states and cities, freshman Marcia Ward is a native Atlantan. Marcia knew a few women who have recently graduated from Spelman. Even though Marcia lives here in Atlanta, she felt the need to have an indept tour of Spelman's campus before making her decision. Marcia did add that her primary reason for considering Spelman, like many others, was its location. Marcia elaborated by saying, "I didn't want to go to school of Atlanta and Spelman seems pretty nice."

In essence it appears to be an abundance of reasons one may finally choose to attend Spelman College. The class of 1984 most certainly does possess a fairly high representation of those reasons and factor. And even though the reasons are indeed as versatile as the students, they all seem to add up to the thought of freshman Lanita Gregory when she stated, "Spelman is

Welcome to our World!

Dear Members of the Class of '84,

The Spotlight extends a hearty welcome to your presence here at Spelman College. During the four years you spend here, this school can offer you many opportunities to grow and develop as a total person.

Yet, happiness is not something given out on a silver platter. It must be worked for like all other things in life. We chal-

lenge each and every freshman now within our cherished grounds to approach this year bravely and boldly. Become involved in the numerous activities here on campus, and take your academics seriously. If necessary, be adventurous and start an organization or study group if there is not one existing that meets your needs.

For it must be understood that college does not exist in a vacuum and that we

cannot fully grow by simply doing the least that is expected, because then we only get the least that a college education can offer.

But when we seek to maximize our talents, work and interact with others, and expand our horizons, the true essence of the college experience unfolds as we begin to develop as total people, rather than narrowly focused, petty individuals.

Again, we welcome you to Spelman and wish you the best during your stay at Spelman.

Sincerely,
Pamela Moore
Editor-in-Chief
Kiron Skinner
Associate Editor

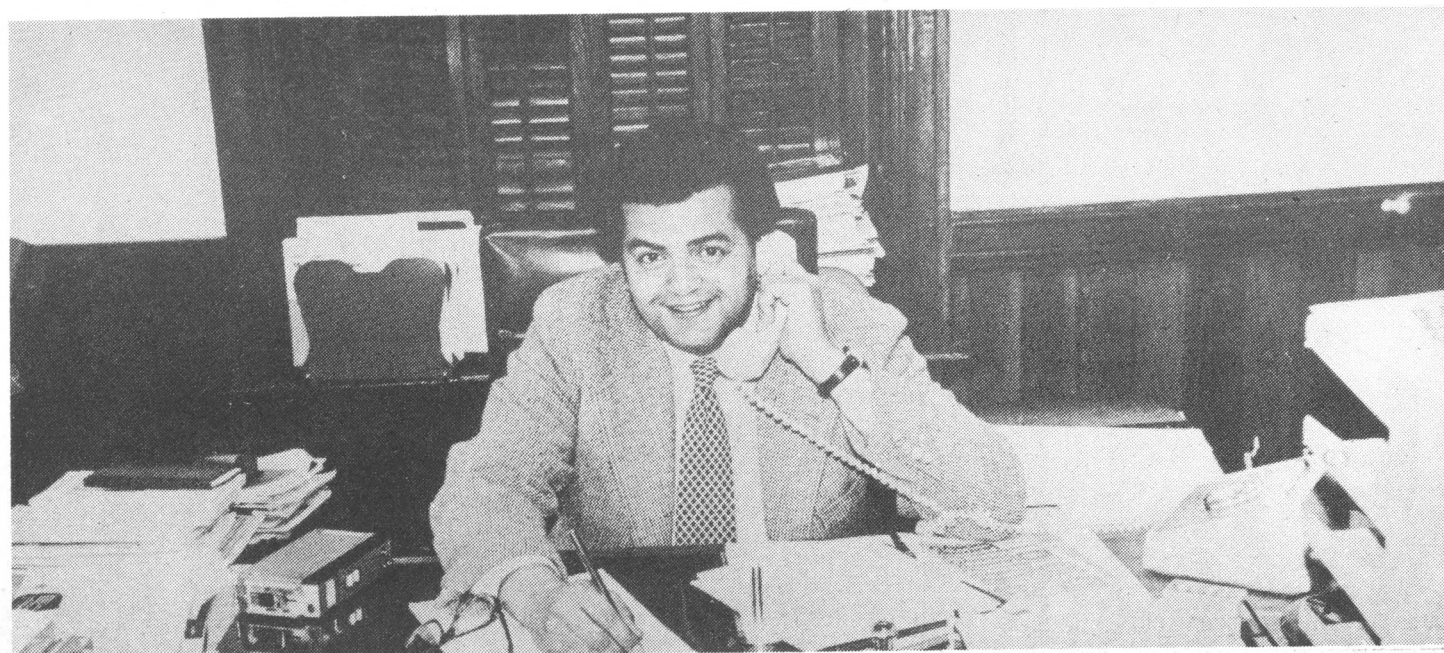
Letter from the President

Become a Part of Our Great Mission

Dear Class of 1984:

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to Spelman. You are coming into the College during the best of times and the worst of times. This year, Spelman reaffirms its dedication to learning and academic achievement. This academic year, we celebrate 100 years of service to women who achieve. This is the legacy which you as Spelman freshmen inherit. It will be an exciting year and one which offers many interesting and challenging opportunities for you. I ask that you take full advantage of the educational opportunities which Spelman offers as well as the College's social, cultural and religious activities.

While you should find your life at Spelman full and happy, do know that our College and our nation face serious tests which threaten our survival in the days and weeks ahead. Rising costs, shrinking national resources and increased racial and sexual tension make these sober times indeed. Spelman prepares to enter its second century stronger than it has ever been in its history. We ask that you become part of our great mission and help us continue



to grow in academic quality while meeting external challenges which abound.

Congratulations on having been selected a Spelman woman. Proudly we salute you.

Warmest best wishes.

Sincerely,
Donald M. Stewart
President

Stand Tall Stand Proud

The new year begins (as always) with a burst of enthusiasm. School spirit fills the air as each person starts to map out his future. As the school year progresses the enthusiasm will decrease, but the goals must not be forgotten. We must not be broken by the obstacles set forth by society, but keep moving upward and forward.

Many times it seems that we live in a fantasy world at school. We have to constantly remind ourselves that there is much more to life than the experiences we have at school. We have an obligation that comes along with being educated, and there is a community reaching out to us for support. Reach into the community and give of yourself as needed. The time is now to take advantage of all the opportunities available in the Atlanta University Center. As a people we can't afford to waste time...

so don't.

"To achieve all that is possible we must attempt the impossible—To be all that we can be we must dream of being more."

Gale Baker Stanton

Sometimes the way may seem impossible, but we must not sell ourselves cheap. We struggle not only for ourselves but for the many people who were not given the opportunity. Stand tall, stand proud and look ever forward. Good Luck.

Sometimes the way may seem impossible, but we must not sell ourselves cheap. We struggle not only for ourselves but for the many people who were not given the opportunity. Stand tall, stand proud and look ever forward. Good Luck.

Angela Cumberlander
SGA Advisor to
Freshman Class

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A Freshman Writes Home

By Spike Lee

August 29, 1980

Dear Mother Dear,

I hope this letter finds you in good health. I'm doing OK. Orientation week has finally ended and classes start soon. I can't believe I'm a freshmen at Morehouse in Atlanta, in the beginning of a new decade. Our colors are maroon and white.

When I got here they didn't have a room for me (what was that \$100 deposit for?). So they put me in the basement of Graves Hall. It's a nice historic building. You would like my roommates. Their names are Joseph, Frank, David, Chris, John and Craig (it's a little crowded).

My time so far has been spent at the "Yard". That's what we call Spelman. It's right across the street. This is their Centennial year. The first day we got here niggers hadn't even unpacked their bags before they were hounding over there. We walk around campus all day and try to crack (getting names and phone numbers). My roommates are good at it, I've gotten a few. But they know all the babes. There are four freshmen dorms; Abby, Laura Spelman, Packard and Chadwick. I don't know anyone in Chad which yet, it's too far to walk.

The upperclassmen have started to arrive. You can always tell them from us. They walk around like they own the joint. Already I've been told a hundred times "I don't got no hours." Some have gone out of their way to help me, I must say.

Tonight the fraternities stepped over at Spelman. You wouldn't have believed it. They do these fancy steps in perfect unison, but that's not what the girls were screaming about (X-rated). As we walked back everybody said they were going to pledge too. I think I might like hundreds of females yelling my name also.

From day one, we have been bombarded with Morehouse mystique stuff. Did you know Morehouse Men are the protectors of the oppressed, righter of the wronged? I didn't either. My roommate's father went to Morehouse and he told us this story about his first day here. In those days chapel was held every day in Sale Hall. Freshmen one by one had to stand up in front of the entire student

body and tell why they chose Morehouse. For the most part everybody gave the standard answers "I want to lead my race out of the darkness." But on occasion there would be some funny ones. "I didn't want to be a cotton picker like my daddy." This one guy, he must have been 4 feet tall and 80 pounds calmly stated, "I came to Morehouse to be a HE-MAN." From then on he was called HE-MAN. Finally it was my roommate's father's turn. He stood up slowly, looked around and began, "I was a juvenile delinquent, then I went to reform school, then I got sent to the state pen, I wanted to continue my education so I came to Morehouse." President Mays like to have died on the spot. He almost fell out of his chair. I'm not down with this elitist thinking. I refuse to believe I'm better than someone at Morris Brown, Clark or Spelman for that matter. I've met people from those schools and they're just like us—BLACK. I just wish my brothers at "DA HOUSE" would realize this.

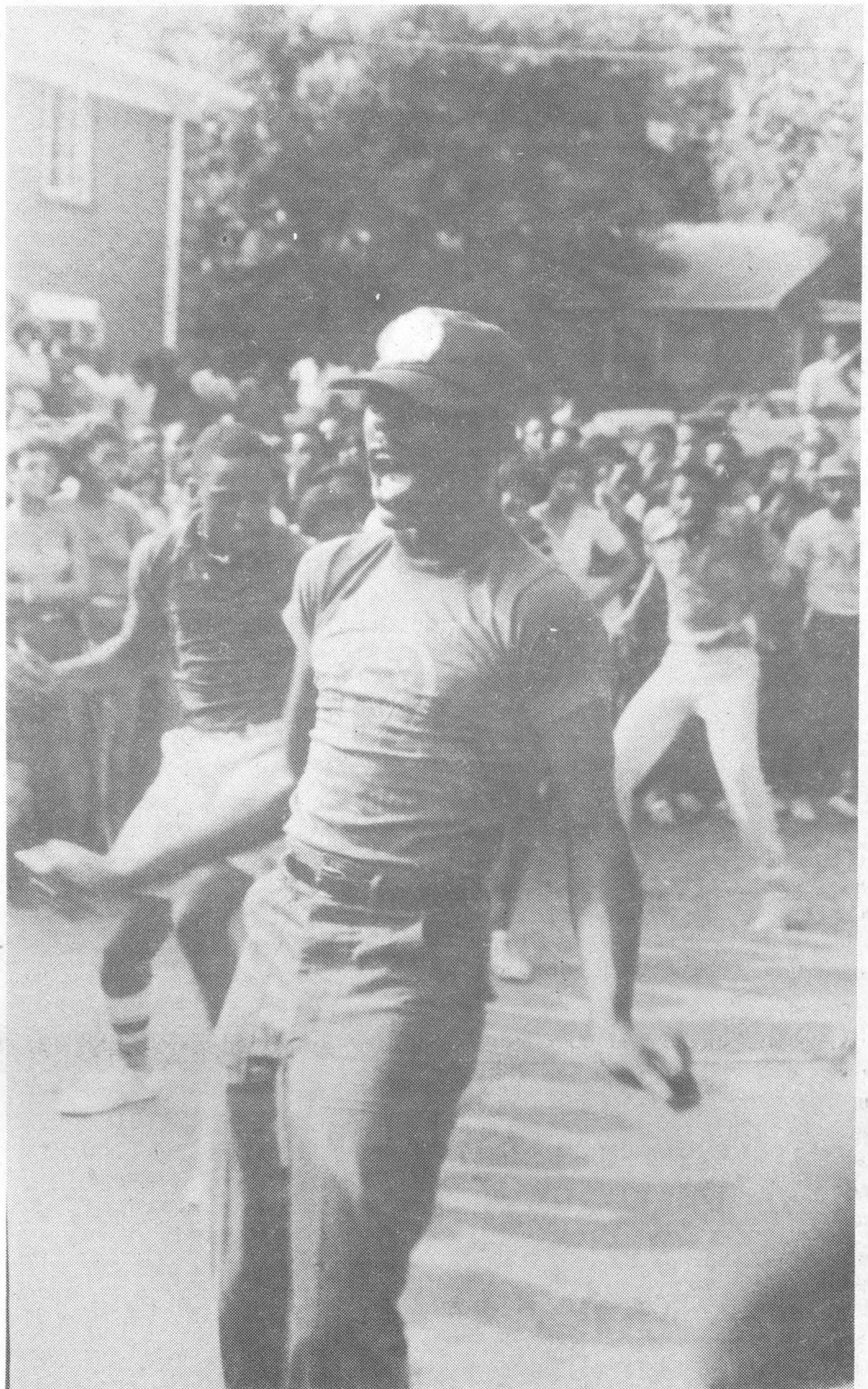
The food here at best is edible. I've never eaten so many grits in my life. We also get a lot of pork. My roommate, Joseph, is constantly getting on me about that pig. He calls me the "swine merchant." I think I'm going to be a vegetarian. By the way, somebody has been stealing the shower curtains, rumor has it, it's the doing of the homo's.

I haven't decided on my major yet but my advisor says I will have time to chose my field. I don't intend to waste your hard earned money. I will do my best.

In closing I've met a very nice girl. Her name is Beulah Brown. She's from Baton Rouge, Louisiana. They call country people "BAMAS" here. In my eye they are more real than these slick, plastic Negroes I've met from LA, NY or D.C. She seems interested in me and she never asked if I had a ride (a lot have). I have told her already that she is invited to our home for Thanksgiving. I know I should have asked you first but she has my nose wide open. Anyway you'll like her. Take care. Your loving son,

Miles Toomer.

P.S. If you can, please send money. Beulah has a thing for Church's Fried Chicken.



"They do fancy steps in perfect unison, but that's not what the girls were screaming about (x-rated) . . . I think I might like hundred of females yelling my name also."

"We walk around campus all day and try to crack (getting names and phone numbers) . . . I've gotten a few."

SPIKE LEE
is a member
of the distinguished
class of 1979 at
Morehouse College.
He is presently
Studying at New York
University Graduate School
of Film



HIGHLIGHTS OF

Freshman Relates Experiences

Freshman Week Instilled Confidence

By Nancy Bowman

We came by cars, trains, planes and buses each with mixed feelings about what was in store for us. We are Spelman's class of 84. Each of us brings with her memories of homes and places held dear.

Buzzing with excitement and full of anticipation we enter the places that will house us—our dormitories. Instead of seeing the interior of a room holding trinkets of affairs in the past we are faced with rooms cold, emotionless, sparsely furnished with desks, beds, and burrows. The reactions to these strange new surroundings vary from person to person. For some a desire to return to the comforts of home persist while others eagerly await their next new adventures.

The next one is meeting for the first time the inhabitants of these close intimate quarters—your roommates. Within time you discover that these strangers really aren't quite that different for you are now sharing the same experience.

The most emotional and memorable

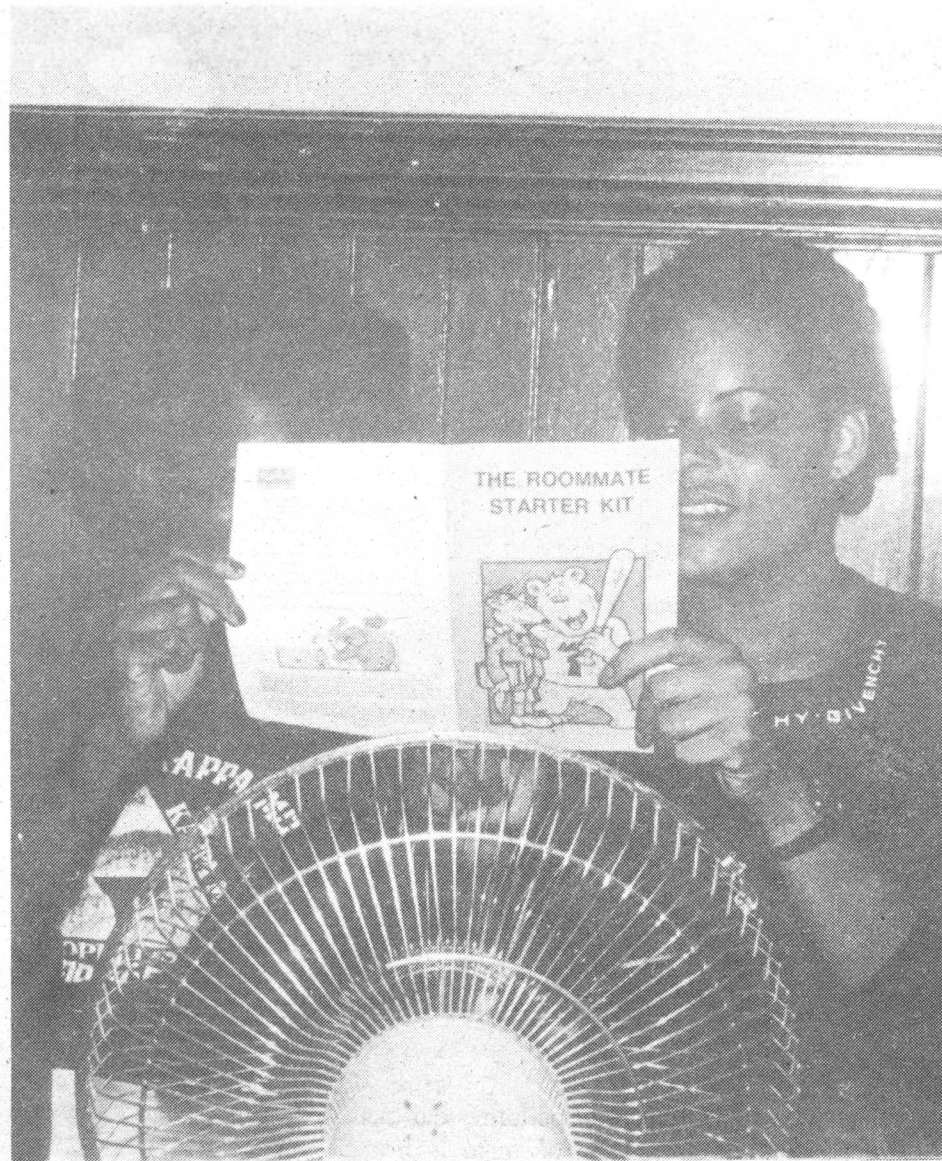
moment in this new quest for independence is when the departure from your parents no longer is a horrid dream but a present reality. As the days of our first weekend at Spelman progresses, seen throughout the campus are tear filled farewells. Lingering in the minds of all involved in these emotional times is the notion that these days are to be cherished ones.

Perhaps the most awaited moment during our first weekend at Spelman was the arrival of the Morehouse Man. These future black males leaders of which ranged from egotistical maniacs to sweet sincere gentlemen converged on the Morehouse campus on Sunday, a day awaited by all.

Their arrival made the Spelman experience complete for we know that that was a drawing source for many.

As freshman week comes to a close, present is a confidence in the underclassmen that was there in the beginning. It has come after discovering new things and dealing with new situation each of which will make us grow and understand Spelman College.

"We came by cars, trains, planes and buses." Parent unloads luggage along with daughter from U-Haul.



"Within time you discover that these strangers really aren't that quite different, for you are now sharing the same experience."



Parents and students browse during first day of orientation. "Lingering in the minds of all involved in these emotional times is the notion that these days are to be cherished ones."

FRESHMAN WEEK

As They Face New Year

Freshmen Show Ambivalent Feelings

By Sincerae Smith

When the doors to Spelman's illustrious halls opened on August 22, a fresh and new breed of young women devoted to a dream and sheer tradition entered the world of Spelman. Like all new enthusiasts they had a feeling of longing, but also beneath their emotional interests were other myriad sensibilities.

The first thing these new freshmen observed was that the Spelman campus is particularly beautiful. To us, Spelman might seem to be the perfect haven for the intellectual and adventurous young woman, and in face, Spelman is. A sense of pride probably overwroughted many freshmen when they contemplated that Spelman will be celebrating its centennial this year. This is quite an achievement for a black institution of higher learning.

For many girls there has been a feeling of excitement and uneasiness. As one freshman said, "The experience was odd and strange, but pleasant." Spelman is a new beginning for freshmen. The only way to succeed here is by having a good positive attitude, a healthy perception of oneself, and a strong desire to strive for personal excellence.

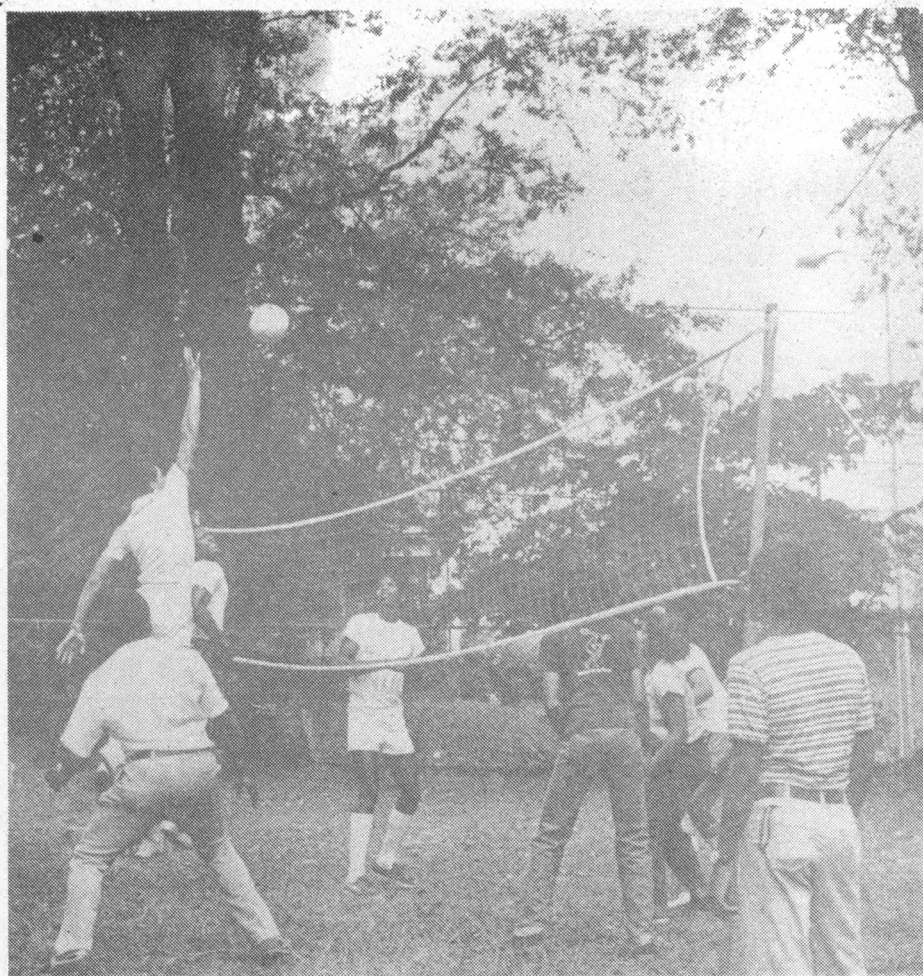
While many girls thought of performing well, they also thought of their homes. Spelman girls originate from

nearly every state in America, and some foreign countries. With so many girls here who live far from Atlanta, it is certain that at least a few became homesick even on Friday. And a fear of the general criminal environment which circumvents Spelman, might have contributed to some of their anxieties.

Many girls found their first day at Spelman a welcomed event. One Spelman sister stated that coming to Spelman was like a vacation to her. While another said that being here was like a dream.

The coquettish Spelmanite was also in for quite a surprise when she entered the campus last Friday. Neighboring Morehouse had not opened its doors to all its freshmen, but the few young Morehouse men who were present on Spelman's campus was a delectable preview of good and even better to come.

The diverse feelings of Spelman's new freshmen may well tell the story of whether these girls will be happy or sad, a success or a failure, and whether they will be able to freely communicate with other students. One happy freshman said that she was eager to meet people, eager to make new friends and remake old friends. Besides studying, friendship is probably what all new freshmen long for and need so much.



Morehouse Men Play Volleyball

For Freshman

Week Was Fun and Thought-Provoking

By Cynthia Williams

Through the eyes of freshman Valjeanne Estes from Durham, North Carolina, Freshmen Week was a fun, but thought-provoking experience, and she had only one complaint—the Spelman cafeteria.

Valjeanne resides in Laura Spelman Dormitory and considers the first official activity she attend the dormitory meeting for new students. The meeting consisted mainly of explanation concerning campus rules, regulations and curfew. According to Valjeanne, "I think the rules are reasonable and so is the curfew. I'm pretty used to the curfew by now and I don't usually stay out that much anyway."

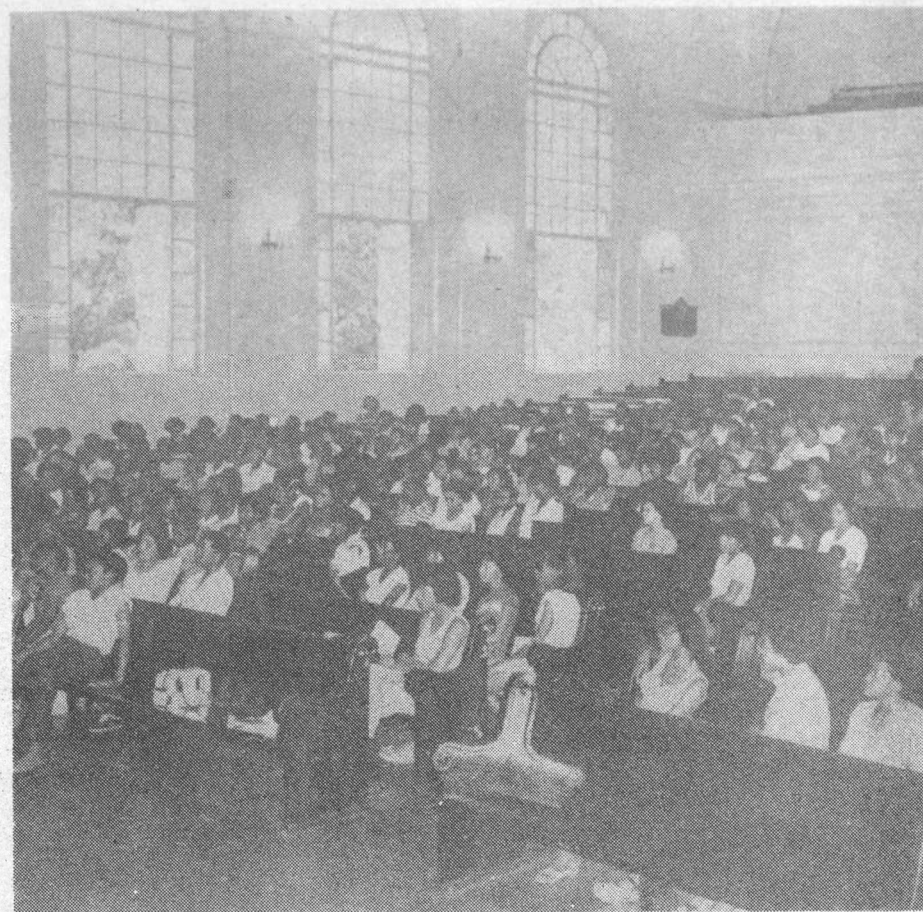
At the dorm meeting, Valjeanne met the other residents of Laura Spelman Dormitory and expressed a positive outlook on her relationship with the other members. She said, "The dorm director is pretty nice and I really like my fellow dorm members. The seven of us in this area are getting along very nicely."

As many freshmen dormitory members do, Valjeanne and her friends have spent a considerable amount of time together this week. They can usually be found playing monopoly together or having a popcorn party. This is all plea-

sant for Valjeanne, but she feels this carefree atmosphere won't continue on throughout the year. Valjeanne plans to enroll in a Graphics class this semester and states, "I'm especially worried about this class and sometimes I'll want and need a little privacy."

Next on the agenda for Valjeanne was Initiation Into Spelman Sisterhood held in Sisters Chapel. The program included songs, cheers and small skits by Spelman students. Valjeanne seemed impressed with this activity and elaborated by saying, "Oh, I thought it was really nice. Being a sister at Spelman is very important and knowing the Spelman Hymn." Valjeanne further elaborated by stating, "The upperclassmen were okay and did show a lot of spirit, but it was kind of hot and after some time it became uncomfortable. All in all though, I feel we had a good time."

Though Valjeanne does anticipate an active academic schedule this Fall, she does plan to participate in some extra-curricular organizations. She hopes to work some for the *Spotlight* and become an active Glee Club member. Auditions for Spelman's Glee Club were held during New Student Orientation Week and Valjeanne attended. Valjeanne enjoyed the method of auditioning and admires Dr. Roland Allison, Chairperson of



Freshmen Listen Attentively at Business Session

Spelman's Music Department. Valjeanne expressed her feelings by saying, "Dr. Allison is really a nice man and is a superb instructor."

Another event Valjeanne felt was noteworthy was a trip to Atlanta's Omni. Valjeanne and others in her dormitory visited a local movie theatre in the Omni and enjoyed the scenery of the ice skating.

With the many fun-filled and positive activities Valjeanne has attended, she does have one complaint. Valjeanne expressed discontent concerning the operation of Spelman's cafeteria.

Valjeanne is quoted as saying, "The people in the cafeteria close too early. A couple of people have gotten locked out before the dinner hour was supposed to have ended."

In closing, Valjeanne felt that all the activities have been fun and thought provoking. In reference to the bond of sisterhood these activities are to promote, Valjeanne ended by saying, "I don't feel that much of an actual sisterhood bond now. I think it'll come later. We're all really kind of busy now with tests and everything, but I know it'll come eventually."

Spelman Gets Honors Program

By Rosalyn Cary

A new honors program has been formed at Spelman College.

Thirty of the thirty nine freshman girls residing at Laura Spelman Hall will participate in the program under the direction of Dr. O. W. Eagleson.

The program is expected to prosper into areas which will not only broaden the overall attributes of Spelman's reputation but those of the students involved.

"For the students, I hope they will extend themselves greater than they would have in another situation; especially, I hope the uniqueness of the learning experience will serve more as a motivating and directing device," explained Dr. Eagleson.

With the establishment of the honors program comes an opportunity to widen Spelman's recruiting efforts. "Many colleges seeking high school women have little or no chance of discovering the diverseness of a Spelman's liberal arts education and hold negative ideas on the quality of black institutions.

The girls have achieved their thirty positions through intense competition through preliminary writings and previous academic excellence showing an aptitude to excel. A number of them are science majors with important objectives for the coming years at Spelman.

Keeping a high 'B' average is among the requirements of retaining the four



Freshmen in Honors Dorm

year scholarships. Study programs, seminars and field trips will all aid in their efforts with the help of Dr. Sadie Allen, Dean of students who will work closely with the group.

Unlike the norm, these girls have

special honors classes to attend in math and English. Therefore they are allowed 19 hours per semester.

Unlike the norm, these girls have special honors classes to attend in math and English. Therefore they are allowed

This experimental group is in the position to lead and direct the future of this program with the upcoming classes and will attempt to set new horizons for an already fine institution.

International Student Likes Spelman

By Cynthia Williams

For most of us here at Spelman, it is not unusual to meet four or five others from our home state. For freshman Sofia McKinney, this would be very uncommon. Sofia has yet to meet two people from her home of Eritrea, East Africa.

Sofia had heard many positive words spoken about Spelman College before she arrived here. She had cousins in Atlanta that held Spelman College in high opinion and encouraged her to come. Sofia explained their reasoning by saying, "They said it was a good school and especially good because it's an all girls school.

Though Sofia is new to Spelman College, she and her family have been in the United States for two years. Because of national troubles in East Africa, Sofia and her family of five decided Columbus, Georgia would be a better home for them all. Sofia added however, "I still miss my home in Africa very much, but Spelman is very nice and I like it."

In reference to other Spelman students, Sofia seems impressed yet not naive. She stated, "Some of the girls here are very nice and then some are not so nice, but here they have all been pretty helpful."

Sofia feels that some of the activities she has participated in with other freshmen extremely entertaining. In particular,

Sofia enjoyed the recent dance at Morehouse College and the Initiation Into Spelman Sisterhood program held in Sisters Chapel. Sofia expressed her views by stating, "I think the party was really nice. At home in Africa I was really underage for parties, but I think it's all the same except for the dances they do." Concerning the 12 Midnight curfew imposed, Sofia remarked, "I think the curfew is good. I'd be back by that time anyway." Most enjoyable of her recent activities was Initiation Into Spelman Sisterhood. Sofia commented by saying, "I loved this program and some of the songs. You felt there was really a bond between you and the Spelman girls."

Throughout her high school years Sofia thought about whether or not to attend Spelman and didn't finally make a decision until her senior year. Sofia is content with this decision and ended by saying, "I know I made a good decision about coming to Spelman. My family feels good about Spelman and in fact I want my two sisters to come too."

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Summer, Science, and Security?

By Angela Patrice Shannon

This year, Spelman conducted its sixth annual Summer Science Program under the direction of Dr. Etta Falconer.

The program, consisting of students from both Spelman and Morris Brown, presented a wonderful learning experience for all who participated. Unfortunately, for some, being in the Summer Science Program meant nasty confrontations with security.

What is the duty of the Spelman security guard? Is it to sit and glance at I.D. cards—only to forget who is who once the person is out of sight? Perhaps it's their duty to sit, with newspaper in hand, avidly keeping up with the columns of Dear Abby and Erma Bombeck. Better still, maybe it's their extremely tough duty to issue sarcastic remarks to Spelman sisters who ask for escort to dorms at night.

For those of you who may be wondering if the answers to this question of duty are correct, the answer is, no, in every instance. If upon returning to the Spelman campus your escort is denied the privilege of accompanying you to the door, it is the duty of the active security guard to do so upon your request. The policy of I.D. checks was enacted in hopes of discouraging possible trouble-

makers from entering the campus, although the front gate is not the sole mean of entry.

In spite of some summer program par-

ticipants' encounters with security, they did realize that the guards were there to insure the well-being of all the program's participants. And, it is the hope of

security that we, as incoming Freshmen, work as closely with them as possible to make this Fall, as was the Summer, a season void of any major mishaps.



Security Officer discusses crime prevention during Freshman Week.

WE WENT TO THE OMNI!

